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CENTER SCENE

The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter *May 1990*

EARTH DAY AT THE FED CENTER

Earth Day was celebrated on April 19, 1990, at the Denver Federal Center. A morning ceremony was followed by open houses at the Bureau of Mines Research Center, Bureau of Reclamation Research Laboratory, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, and U.S. Geological Survey Central Region Office.

Joe Hall, Deputy Commissioner for BOR, hosted the outdoor ceremony. Hall expressed his pride in our accomplishments toward environmental protection over the last 20 years, and his enthusiasm in looking to the future. According to Hall, industry is becoming more innovative and responsible about protecting the environment, because of both the environmental ethic and the realization of economic benefit. Individuals are also becoming more responsible. "Environmental protection requires commitment. Even though it is not easy — it requires lifestyle changes, less consumptive behavior, and even alternate modes of transportation — the will is there, and that's exciting," said Hall.

John Sayre plants a tree assisted by Boy Scout Troop 47

John Sayre, Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, also addressed the crowd. "We have become more aware of the sensitivity of the environment and the consequences of our actions. Progress has been made, yet challenges still remain," Sayre said. He outlined the Department's efforts for the next decade, as well as efforts underway at the Federal Center. He encouraged the audience to become directly involved for everyone's benefit — to celebrate Earth Day every day.

The ceremony concluded with the unveiling of a sign for an interpretive trail planned for the Federal Center, and the planting of a Colorado blue spruce, a chokecherry, and a native plum tree on the Federal Center grounds.

DATA MODELING

Data modeling! What is that? Rest assured that it is not a group of people advertising the latest fashion trends in BLM uniforms, nor is it an event in which people gather to adorn themselves with bits of data. Data modeling is, instead, a technique used to describe and document the data an organization needs to conduct its business. The modeling is done graphically, with pictures in an Entity/Relationship Diagram, and textually, with definitions and other information in a data dictionary.

The Branch of Target System Data Modeling (SC-323), located in Building 40 at the Service Center, is developing a logical model of all BLM corporate data. Corporate data is that data which is commonly used and shared between BLM's field offices, the Service Center, and the Washington Office. This Branch works with users of the data to determine what information is necessary to operate Bureau programs, such as Minerals; Wildlife; Soil, Water, and Air; etc. This information is modeled, reviewed, and revised as changes occur and new information is obtained. The model, along with other information, will be used to design BLM's target computer system.

The modeling process is an invaluable tool in computer systems analysis and design. The model promotes easy review of information; increases the speed and quality of data base design; encourages more generalized data base designs which can support multiple projects; promotes data sharing; and lowers computer system development costs. The model also helps to identify duplicate data among programs and can be used to identify data conversion and collection requirements. Ultimately, the modeling process is an effective way of ensuring that user data requirements are met.

Many areas of information have been modeled to date including Legal Lands, Master Name, Bonds, Surety, Lands, some minerals, and Geographic Coordinate Data Base (GCDB). Future areas to be modeled include all resource programs (solid and fluid minerals, planning, vegetation, recreation, etc.), known as Automated Resource Data (ARD), and Resource Base Data (RBD) which includes terrain (elevation, latitude, longitude), transportation (roads, trails, railroads, pipelines), surface hydrography (rivers, lakes), and cultural features (mined areas, fences, and also political and BLM administrative boundaries).

The modeling staff uses a computer analysis software package called ProKit*WORKBENCH to accomplish their modeling tasks. The capabilities of this software will be featured in a future issue of Center Scene. In the meantime (or anytime), the modeling staff would be happy to answer questions and/or demonstrate their work. They can be reached at 303-236-0538, FTS 776-0538.

MURPHEY RETIRES

Doug Murphey, Chief, Division of Personnel, has retired to do fun things after 34 years and 3 days of Federal service! Almost 30 years of that time he was involved in personnel work. Doug worked for the Internal Revenue Service; Health, Education and Welfare Department; Civil Service Commission; Bureau of Indian Affairs (5-month detail); National Park Service; and Bureau of Land Management. He moved around geographically too, working in Minneapolis, Omaha, Kansas City, and Washington, DC. He moved to Denver more than once.

In his career Doug was frequently asked to do "tough assignments," such as reorganizing the Indian Education Program in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and accepting a detail to improve an organization that had their personnel authority withdrawn because of improper and inaccurate personnel actions.

In the 10 years he was with the BLM, Doug saw many changes in the Division of Personnel. At one time, the Division had 65 employees and serviced 8 BLM states, plus the Service Center and BIFC. For a few years the Division was very small and only did personnel servicing for the Service Center and BIFC. Then in 1986, the Colorado State Office's and Service Center's personnel offices were combined.

Doug and his wife Joyce can now spend their time playing tennis (they are both avid players and very competitive). There will always be time for visiting their three grandchildren too!

ROOF REPAIRS

As you are aware, the rainy season is here again and some of us in Building 50 are beginning to feel the spring showers indoors. Yes, it's that wonderful, amazing flat roof design that so many large buildings here at the Federal Center are blessed with. They seasonally leak into our daily lives.

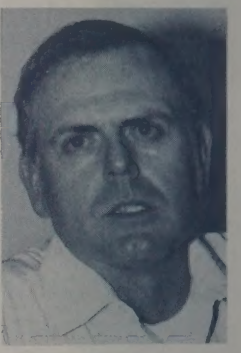
Drips are everywhere at the Service Center and no one is more aware of this than the people in Office Services. It seems that every time any moisture collects in the bathtubs overhead, those persistent liquids manage to shower us with an overflow of complaint calls and emergency situations, as well as a sprinkling of headaches.

Office Services will continue to make every effort to channel and contain the flow from above by contacting GSA and asking them to dam it, or whatever they can do to contain the H_2O. GSA also has said that complete roof replacement and repair is scheduled to drop on us soon, depending on the spring thaw, polar melt, downstream runoff, river rising, and possibly the water parting.

Seriously, it looks as if GSA will finally do something about replacing the roof this month and dampened spirits may disappear. Of course, that may lead us into dryer times, but then another stinky problem may arise. So don't give up the ship!

It looks like some trying times ahead, and the staff in Office Services will try to keep as many of you as comfortable as possible. Remember, it could be worse. It could be raining.

WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM



Charlie Boyer, Service Center Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, gave a presentation entitled *Wild Horses — A Resource Management Dilemma* on April 19, 1990, to SC employees.

Boyer explained the love/hate relationship Americans have with wild horses and why this presents a problem for BLM in managing them. He told the history of wild horses in this country and talked about events that caused fluctuations in their populations.

Legislation governing the management of the Wild Horse and Burro Program was also discussed, as was the influence of Velma Johnson (Wild Horse Annie). Boyer outlined some programs that BLM is presently using to manage wild horses, including the adoption program, prison program, and sanctuaries. He gave some pros and cons of the present programs and concluded by opening the floor for discussion of changes and possible solutions to problems.

Boyer will present the same program to local schools in the future.

Wellness Center Update

Renovation
was to be completed in April.

Operator contract
was to be awarded in April.

Center *should* be open in June!

Public Service Recognition Week
May 7-13, 1990

Employees nominated by their coworkers will be presented with awards on May 10. Look for award winners in the next edition of Center Scene.

PERSONNEL NEWS

New Employees:

Talitha Cumi, Library Aid, SC-320
Michelle Kiefer, Comp. Clerk, SC-320
Raymond Leroux, Voucher Examiner, SC-610
Denise Popham, Clerk Typist, SC-630
Mary Shimel, Clerk Typist, SC-630

Retirements:

Jacqueline Miles, Comp. Clerk, SC-340
John Tidbeaux, Comp. Prog. Analyst, SC-340

Separations:

Debra Crewdson, Procurement Clerk, SC-650
Colin James, Comp. Systems Analyst, SC-340
Wendy Krebs, Personnel Clerk, SC-630
Karen Rodriguez, Accounting Tech., SC-610
Susan Taunton, Staffing Clerk, SC-630
Elaine Watson, Budget Analyst, SC-130